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Identical letters dated 30 April 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, I wish to transmit the following information.

On the morning of 29 April 2013, Damascus was struck by yet another terrorist act. A car bomb exploded near the Ibn Rushd gardens at an intersection in the Mazzah area. It targeted the convoy of Prime Minister Wa'il al-Halqi, killing 4 people, injuring 16 and inflicting significant material damage on the Communications building and a kindergarten in the area, which is densely inhabited and busy with traffic. On the morning of 30 April 2013, armed terrorist groups committed a further terrorist atrocity by causing an explosion in the Marjah area of Damascus, which is the commercial and historic centre of the city. According to first estimates, 13 civilians were killed and over 70 injured, some of them seriously.

Those terrorist acts are part of an organized succession of terrorist attacks targeting civilians, State institutions, public and private property, mosques and churches. One such example was the targeting of the densely inhabited Shahbandar area on 8 April 2013. Moreover, armed men have directed random mortar fire at densely inhabited areas, killing dozens of civilians, injuring hundreds and damaging public and private property.

The Prime Minister chairs the ministerial committee to follow up implementation of the political programme to resolve the crisis in Syria. The attempt on his life therefore clearly demonstrates the perpetrators' rejection of the political solution. It shows the true criminal face of the armed groups and their backers, who provide political cover for their strategy of terrorism and destruction as the sole means to realize their political and ideological aims, which run counter to modern humanitarian values and human nature in equal measure.

This cowardly act shows that such individuals are failing as a result of the progress made by the ministerial committee, which has consulted with political and

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social forces that wish to participate in the political process and help formulate concerted approaches for the success of the political programme to resolve the crisis in Syria.

The Syrian Arab Republic reiterates that the terrorist acts have continued because the Al-Qaida-linked armed terrorist groups that perpetrate them receive various forms of support, including funds, training and weapons. Such support clearly violates the concerned States' counter-terrorism obligations under the principles of international law and United Nations resolutions.

The Syrian Arab Republic recalls the demands contained in all of its previous letters to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council. These terrorist atrocities must be condemned clearly, resolutely and without scope for ambiguity or interpretation. An end must be brought to the support provided by a group of regional, Arab and other States, which are determined to perpetuate the violence and block the political solution to the crisis in Syria. The Syrian Arab Republic repeats its demand that the Security Council should adopt a resolute stance affirming its determination to combat terrorism wherever and whenever it occurs and stressing its genuine intention to enforce the relevant resolutions. Failure to take any measures against such terrorist acts would amount to a setback in international efforts to combat and eradicate terrorism.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 105, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative